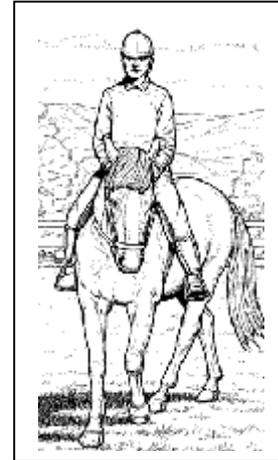


Accessibility and Equestrian Facilities

Equestrian facilities refers to all trekking and horse hire facilities or where a visitor may bring their own horse. This may involve provision of space for vehicles and horse trailers.



Accessibility provisions include

Getting to the facility.

Access to the place where horses are kept.

Transfer capabilities to mount and dismount the horse that are safe and secure. This may be achieved by

- a. Raising the level of the rider to that of the horse's stirrups – by using a mounting platform.
- b. Lowering the level of the horse in respect to the level of the rider – such as a ground recess for the horse.
- c. Providing a combination of (a) and (b).

The facility should be sited along a continuous network of bridle paths with appropriate support facilities such as signage, route of travel, toilets, restrooms and parking.

Mounting platforms or pits will need to be available at points along the bridle path. These may be shared by a number of businesses or provided by a park or local authority.

Rest and dismounting places should be no more than 20 minutes apart along the bridle path. All dismounting places must have suitable seating close alongside.

Organisers should be prepared to lead horses for some riders.

While organisers cannot arbitrarily refuse a disabled person as a rider, it is advisable to assess whether the individual is capable and will be safe on the horse.

Before beginning an outing make sure every rider understands the hand signals you will use. Hand signals must be used in addition to any spoken commands for the benefit of people with low or no hearing.

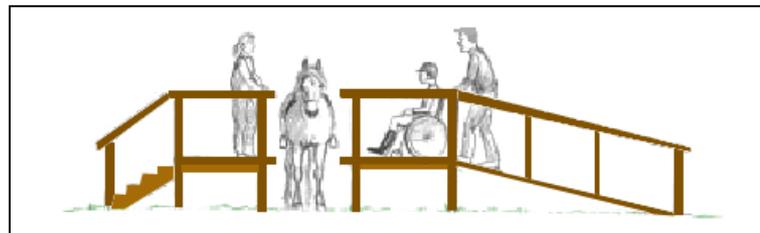
People with low vision or who are blind should always be in close company with an experienced rider and possibly using a lead rope. The companion should keep up a verbal description of any hazards, slopes etc. met along the route.

Where horses are hired for hacking trips good signage is important as are gates which can be opened and closed without dismounting and cutting back over growth and head space. For more details see Country Bridle Path design.

Mounting Platform

An accessible mounting platform should be provided to facilitate movement to and from the horse.

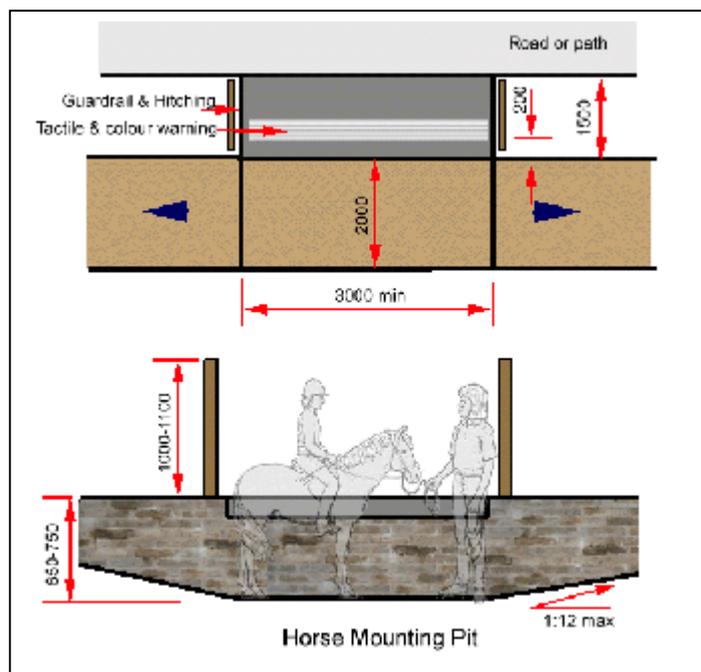
- A platform height above ground level 650 to 750 mm as measured at the place of mounting the horse.
- Access to the platform can be by means of a ramp with a maximum slope of 1:12 with a minimum width of 1000 mm with handrails on both sides. The ramp will be 7 to 9 metres long. And by steps. 1200 mm wide (for a person to provide assistance) with handrails at 600 mm and 950 mm height, steps to be 150-180 mm high, 280-320 deep and with closed risers and contrasting nosing.
- A recommended level surface area of 1500 x 1500. With a 150 mm high kerb and 1100 mm high railing at all edges, except for the opening on the mounting side.
- A level route area 1200 wide by 1500 mm long should be available at the foot of the steps and ramp.



Site selection for mounting/dismounting activities could minimise or eliminate the need for a ramp and steps.

Pit Mounting

Alternatively a pit 650 to 750 mm deep 1500 mm wide and 3000 mm (min) long with access ramps no more than 1:12, could be dug for the horse to stand in. This takes up less space than a mounting platform.



This pit should have adequate natural or built drainage.

The pit walls should be made so that they will not collapse.

The a strip 1500 mm wide ground should be firm and level along side the mounting pit.

Pits should not be dug inline with pedestrian routes and should be off to one side of any footpaths or bridleways.

The pit should be protected with railings or tactile surfaces to prevent people with low or no vision from falling into it.

Infrastructure

Amenities, such as shelter, fixed benches, lockers, hitching posts and drinking fountains, should be provided to accessible standards.

Tack

Businesses which hire out horses or run trekking should consider having saddles suitable to support people with limited body strength available and other disability aids which are available.

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